



Fishing

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Weekly Fishing Report

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **May 28**. If there is a body of water you would like included in this report, please call or e-mail us with information on possible sources for that lake or river.

Fishing Tip: Here's a tip from Gerald Swindle's Classic Patterns video, available from Bass Pro Shops:

"Skipping jigs under docks takes some time to learn. One of the biggest mistakes I see people make when trying to skip is getting too close to the dock. You want to back away 10 to 15 feet from the dock and let the bait slide on the water's surface. Just like skipping a rock, you want the jig to fly as flat as possible, so it gets far under the dock where unpressured fish live. It took me a long time of picking backlashes out of the reel to figure out how to do it, but it's been the difference on many days where the outside edges of the docks weren't producing."

For more great tips, visit the [Bass Pro Shops Outdoor Library](#).

Arkansas River Levels: According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as of Tuesday the Arkansas River stages are:

Trimble Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 13): Headwater – 389.36 feet, Tailwater – 386.75 feet, Flow – 121,865 cubic feet per second

Ozark Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 12): Headwater – 371.76 feet, Tailwater – 351.29 feet

Dardanelle Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 10): Headwater – 338.11 feet, Tailwater – 298.64 feet

Ormond Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 9): Headwater – 285.34 feet, Tailwater – 277.66 feet

Toad Suck Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 8): Headwater – 263.98 feet, Tailwater – 263.86 feet

Murray Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 7): Headwater – 248.41 feet, Tailwater – 235.13 feet, Flow – 98,378

Terry Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 6): Headwater – 230.34 feet, Tailwater – 221.47 feet, Flow – 106,111

Sanders Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 4): Headwater – 213.34 feet, Tailwater – 202.51 feet

Hardin Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 3): Headwater – 181.44 feet, Tailwater – 175.37 feet

Mills Dam (Dam 2): Headwater – 160.79 feet, Tailwater – 144.51 feet, Flow – 87,436 cubic feet per second

White River Levels: According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as of Tuesday the White River stages are:

8.9 feet at Calico Rock (flood stage – 19 feet)

9 feet at Batesville (flood stage – 15 feet)

14 feet at Newport (flood stage – 26 feet)

26.2 feet at Augusta (flood stage – 26 feet)

15.7 feet at Georgetown (flood stage – 21 feet)

25 feet at Clarendon (flood stage – 26 feet)

Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report : Channel catfish are being stocked in all program ponds and are biting well on worms, liver, hot dogs, shrimp and paste baits. Channel catfish are being caught with more success in early mornings and late evenings. Bream are still biting well on crickets, wax worms and redworms. For more information on catfish stockings, call toll-free **1-866-540-FISH (3474)**.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Conway : Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said the water is murky and high. Bream are fair on crickets. Crappie are fair in 6 to 8 feet of water on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is good around banks on spinnerbaits and buzzing toads. A few catfish are being caught on trotlines with minnows.

Dan Zajac at Gold Creek Landing (501-607-0590) said crappie have been fair on shiners and chartreuse jigs fished in 3 to 7 feet of water. Bass are biting well on plastic worms and top-water baits. Bream are hitting very well in the afternoons on crickets and redworms. Catfish are good on trotlines.

Little Red River: [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the water is in great condition, with two generators running. Trout fishing is very good on wax worms, Power Eggs, crankbaits, nightcrawlers and Buoyant Spoons.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said the Greers Ferry Power House is releasing water most every morning from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. This leaves the river low, clear and richly oxygenated the following morning. If you want to fish the Little Red River, you need to do it now. The fishing is fantastic! In low water, our guide trips are boating (and releasing) well over 100 trout per day per guide. During the last month or so, we have been blessed with caddis flies, March brown mayflies and midges. Trout have been rising to these tasty critters and fishing has been excellent. You can now add another morsel to the menu, sulphur mayflies. Soon, we should be seeing light cahill mayflies buzzing around the river. I don't talk a lot about dry flies in this space and I would like to change that with this report. If you find yourself in the midst of an aquatic insect hatch and the fish are rising, by all means tie on the dry fly that most closely "matches the hatch" and hang on! If the fish are keying on emergers, they may well ignore your dry fly offering. If this is the case, try an emerger like the red butt soft hackle (size 14-18) or Ed Story's crackleback (size 12) twitched so that it sits low in the surface film. Elk hair caddis dry flies are another perennial favorite in the White River system. A great generic dry fly pattern is the Adams (sizes 14-24). This fly can be used in almost every river year round with promising results. Sulphur and light cahill mayflies (sizes 12-24) come off in mid-May and June. Our sulphur mayfly is called a Pale Evening Dun out west. The BWO (blue winged olive mayfly sizes 16-20) is another good dry pattern that can be used on the Little Red year round. Over the long run, sub-surface fishing is the most productive means of catching trout. Try a

lowly but abundant sowbug (sizes 14-16 tan, olive, UV gray or UV tan), zebra midge (sizes 16-22 red, black or olive), San Juan worm (sizes 14-18 pink, red or fluorescent orange), pheasant tail (size 16), copper john (sizes 14-16 copper, red or green), red butt soft hackle (sizes 14-18), hare's ear (sizes 14-16) or woolly bugger (sizes 4-12 olive, copper or black). The annual Kid's Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday morning, June 7 from 8 a.m to 11 a.m.

Greers Ferry: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 483.69 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) had no report.

Shiloh Marina said the water is murky and high. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers and worms. Fishing for drum is excellent around grassy areas and roads that are under water.

Harris Brake Lake: [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water is murky and high. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is fair on nightcrawlers.

Lake Beaverfork : The City of Conway Parks and Recreation Department said the water is muddy and at normal level with a 70-degree surface temperature. A few crappie have been caught on minnows. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and top-water lures.

Lake Overcup : Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said the water is clear and high. Bream are biting well on redworms and crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows. A few bass have been caught on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on large minnows and crawfish.

[Overcup Landing](#) said the water is clear and high. Bream are biting well on crickets and wax worms. Bass fishing is good around the banks on buzzbaits and spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on trotlines and noodles with nightcrawlers and minnows.

Brewer Lake : [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said all species are slow.

Sunset Lake : Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well in shallow water on worms and crickets. Crappie are fair around brush on Tennessee shad grubs. Bass fishing is good on plastic worms around brush. Catfishing is good on live bait.

Saline River Access in Benton: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is clearing up and high. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets. Bass are fair on top-water lures. Catfishing is good on live bait.

Arkansas River at Morrilton: Charlie's Hidden Harbor at Oppelo said the flow has been down as low as 50,000 cubic feet per second, but is now back to 100,000 cfs. The flow has kept fish behind jetties and in backwater areas. Largemouth bass are in grassy pockets and are biting well early on buzzbaits and on poppers at mid-day just outside the grass. Kentucky bass moved to the backs of the jetties and are biting fair on buzzbaits and Jitterbugs early and crawfish-colored tubes and jigs later in the day. White bass are around the tips of sand bars where shad are gathering. Bream are near sandbars where they are trying to spawn in any cover they can find around calmer water. Catfishing is good close to the bank on shad. Stripers are holding around creek mouths and near the front of dams and are biting fair on shad-colored crankbaits.

Arkansas River in Little Rock: Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) said bass are biting well in the backwater on spinnerbaits and crankbaits.

Lake Maumelle: [Jolly Roger's Marina](#) said the water level is even with the spillway. Largemouth bass are excellent. Some have moved to deeper water, but most are still in 4 to 8 feet of water just off the weed line. Carolina rigs, spinnerbaits and crankbaits are working well. Bream fishing is excellent with bream on the beds. Look along the north bank for graveled areas and fish with crickets and worms. Crappie fishing is fair in 10 to 15 of water on small jigs and minnows. Catfishing is good on large minnows and prepared baits in 3 to 5 feet of water. White bass are fair with reports of some small schools around the marina. CC Spoons and clear crankbaits are working well on the white bass.

Little Maumelle River: Josh Jeffers at [Pinnacle Mountain State Park](#) (501-868-5806) said the water level is receding and the surface temperature ranges from 70 to 75. The water clarity is low. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms. Crappie are biting fairly well on shiners and black/chartreuse 1/8 oz crappie jigs. Bass are biting fair on shad-colored flukes, shaky head finesse worms, and small

top-water baits. Catfish are biting well on nightcrawlers, and different types of stink bait. Pinnacle Mountain State Park will be hosting a kid's fishing derby on Saturday, May 31, at the Environmental Education Pond. There will be how-to-fish clinics, casting contests, free snacks, and lots of prizes. The contest is for kids 15 and under, and admission is free. For more information please call Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream are good around lily pads on crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfishing is good on cut bait and chicken hearts. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits and top-water stick baits.

Palarm Creek: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said catfishing is excellent on limb lines and trotlines with cut bait and chicken hearts. Crappie are good on minnows. Bream are biting well on crickets and wax worms. Bass are fair on tubes.

Lake Valencia : Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said catfish are being caught on chicken hearts and nightcrawlers.

Murray Lock and Dam: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said catfishing is excellent snagging or bait fishing on shad, cut bait and skipjacks. Stripers are good on Mann's twin tails and CC spoons. Crappie are fair on slip-cork rigs and minnows. White bass are fair on CC spoons.

Pickthorne Lake : Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bass are biting well early on Zoom Brush Hogs. Catfishing is good in the back of the levee on nightcrawlers and chicken hearts. Bream are excellent on crickets and wax worms.

Terry Lock and Dam: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said all species are slow.

Clear Lake: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is murky and high. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is picking up on nightcrawlers.

Peckerwood Lake : Herman's Landing (870-241-3731) said the water is in normal condition. Bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are fair in deep water. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits and plastic worms. Catfishing is excellent on worms and large minnows.

NORTH ARKANSAS

White River: [John Berry of Berry Brothers Guides](#) said fishing on the White has been red hot. The flows during the past week have been predictable and the trout have been on the feed. The upper river from the Catch-and-Release section at the base of Bull Shoals dam to Cane Island Shoals has been fishing very well. On high water, the hot flies have been brightly colored San Juan worms and egg patterns. On lower flows the hot flies have been black zebra midges and caddis pupa. Rim Shoals has been another hot spot. On the lower water, midge nymphs in size 14 and 16 have been the ticket. Caddis pupa, copper johns, olive scuds and zebra midges have also been quite productive. On the rising water the hot flies have been brightly colored San Juan worms. Cerise and hot fluorescent pink have been the most productive. Just upstream, in the Red Bud area, anglers were doing well fishing the banks with white marabou jigs and San Juan worms. Down stream from Rim Shoals, all the way to Buffalo Shoals has also fished well.

[Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said there have been some small windows of lighter generation, even no generation, over the last week, triggered by the need to lower water levels at Newport and downstream. The need to drop water levels will limit generation over coming days, but extended periods of low water aren't expected. The worm bite continues, Dynamite Worms, regular San Juans and Buckskin Wigglers, seem to be doing well. Cerise has been the hot color among some aficionados, but standard red, worm brown and pink are the most popular. We have heard of some very good action on sowbugs in the upper part of the river; try Davys Sowbugs, Clint's Sowbugs and Woven V-Rib Sowbugs on three units or less.

Sportsman's White River Resort said the water is clear with little generation. Trout are biting well on

small Rapalas and river rigs with Power Bait.

Bull Shoals Lake : As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 694.12 feet MSL.

Lake Norfolk : As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 578.58 feet MSL.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) said bass fishing has been good using any top water bait and slow sinking soft-plastic baits. Fish in the grassy areas and around any structure. Striper fishing has been best using live bait fished in less than 40 feet of water with very little weight, if any at all. Top-water lures are also working well. Crappie fishing is slow. Walleye fishing has been fair using live bait and small leadhead jigs fished around main points and in some of the shallow grassy areas. Catfishing is good using live bait on rod and reel and limb lines. Please take down limb lines when you are finished fishing so someone else can fish the area once you're gone.

Norfolk Tailwater: [John Berry of Berry Brothers Guides](#) said the big story has been the walleye. Up at Quarry Park, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission biologists report that several walleye have come through the flood gates during the previous flooding and they are stacked near the confluence of Dry Run Creek and the Norfolk. During the past week, there was an absolute army of anglers trying to harvest a few of these toothy fish both day and night. I have not heard of any significant walleye catches on a fly rod. The fishing has been good for trout on high water. The best techniques have been to drift brightly colored San Juan worms (cerise and hot fluorescent pink) and egg patterns. Dry Run Creek has been very productive during the past week. There have been numerous reports of successful young anglers tagging the trout of a lifetime. One particular hot spot has been the waterfall which is located down the steps that are across the road from the National Trout Hatchery in Quarry Park. The hot flies have been sow bugs, San Juan worms, and egg patterns.

[Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said Norfolk has been fishing up and down, when it's good it's good, but it certainly has been less consistent than the White. San Juan worms and Dynamite worms have been productive, as have sow bug and scud patterns. Hot Wire Princess in Green/Yellow have done very well, and red and blue are worth carrying.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Beaver Lake : As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,129.23 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) (479-640-3980) said bass fishing has been very good along points and banks and people's flooded back yards early and late. Small spinnerbaits and swimbaits have produced well. Crappie have been biting better along brush piles in 20 to 35 feet of water. White bass have been biting best early and late along the same banks the bass are on. They also have been biting well at night under lights along steep channel bends. Striped bass are scattered all over the lake. Try trolling shad under floats 10 to 20 feet down near channel bends adjacent to flats. Catfishing is still very good using all methods and baits all over the lake. Bluegill and sunfish have made their way close to the bank and can be caught with crickets or worms.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is muddy and high. Bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are scattered and are being caught on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is good on spinnerbaits.

Lake Fayetteville: Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said the water is murky and high. Bream fishing is good on worms and crickets. Crappie are good on trolled minnows. Bass are fair on jigs, worms and top-water lures. White bass are biting well on crankbaits. Catfishing is fair on liver.

Lake Sequoyah: Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) said the water is muddy and high. All species are slow.

Lake Fort Smith: Jay Schneider at [Lake Fort Smith State Park](#) said Kentucky bass are biting fairly well on spinnerbaits and minnows. Crappie are hitting in 3-6 feet of water on spinnerbaits, crappie jigs and minnows. The water is still recovering from the flooding of last month, and the clarity is improving slowly.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Charles : Brenda Mans at [Lake Charles State Park](#) (870-878-6595) said the water level is normal and the surface temperature ranges from 65 to 67 degrees. Bream are biting on jigs and crickets. Crappie are biting on minnows, crappie candy and jigs. Bass are biting on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Catfish are biting fairly well on carp minnows.

Spring River : [Mark's Fly Shop](#) said fishing has been great this week. Water clarity is good, and the river has returned to normal levels. Caddis and mayfly hatches have been very consistent. It's a great time to come and enjoy the river.

Crown Lake: [Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) said water conditions are normal. Bream are excellent on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well in 4 to 6 feet of water on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is excellent early and late on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is excellent on liver and goldfish.

Lake Frierson: [Lake Frierson State Park](#) said the water conditions are normal. Bream are fair on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on worms. Catfishing is good on worms and goldfish.

SOUTH-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Moro Bay: [Moro Bay State Park](#) said the river remains about 5 feet above normal (currently 71.7ft). Reports of bream and crappie being caught in the lake and in the bay are coming in fairly consistently. Most anglers seem to be bream fishing with crickets around flooded trees and are picking up a few crappie in the process. Live bream and nightcrawlers are being used to catch catfish on trotlines. Bass fisherman can only expect to catch a couple small ones if they put in a half a days work.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Chicot : Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said the water is clear and at normal level. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits and plastic worms. Catfishing is good on liver and nightcrawlers.

Grand Lake : Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said the water is clear and at normal level. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits and plastic worms. Catfishing is good on liver and nightcrawlers.

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

smoke/blue flake, Topwater Toads, and big bulky Magnum Lizards in black neon are all working well.

Siefert's Buzz Baits in Blue Melon-BubbleGum, Grasshopper, or Hot Firecracker are drawing good strikes from big fish in 2-5 feet of water near cypress trees and knees. War Eagle spinnerbaits, in Aurora, Cole Slaw, or Hot Mouse colors, are taking some decent 16" to 18" size keeper largemouths around flooded vegetation and cypress trees, away from current of the river, but close to deep water. Rat-L-Traps in Sexy Shad West, Bleeding White Striper, or Spring Bream colors seem to be the best lipless crank bait bites over the past week. White bass re-appeared between Jack's Isle and Horseshoe Lake in Little River. Several anglers found large schools of whites while trolling with Rat-L-Traps and deep-diving cranks in Little River between Pugh Slough and Horseshoe Lake. The crappie bite improved along Little River. The most consistent bite was on live shiners, smoke tube jigs and white grubs. Blue catfish continue to hit well on trotlines even with the reduction of current in Little River. Channel catfish, from 3-8 pounds each for the past several weeks, are very good to excellent, using dog food, cut shad or Charlie, on trotlines and yo-yos along the river and in oxbows hung from cypress trees in 9-15 feet of water. Bream continue to bite well along the banks on crickets and redworms. Jack's Isle and campers at Millwood State Park, all reporting a good bluegill bite.

Cossatot River : Davy Ashcraft at [Cossatot River State Park](#) (870) 385-2201 said USGA states the water level is 2.23 feet, with the surface temperatures ranging from 68 degrees to 72 degrees. The water is beginning to clear, which will cause problems for some fisherman using baits with spinners on them. Bream are biting great on worms and crickets in 3 feet of water. The smallmouth bass are biting very well on green pumpkin finesse worms and crawdad Crankbaits around structure in the deeper pools at 4 to 5 feet of water. Black Bass are fair with some being taken on dark-colored finesse worms and grubs fished very slowly around deep structure. Most any grub or finesse worm fished around structure and drops will produce good bites. Catfish are good with some being taken on chunks of hot dogs; live perch baited on trotlines are doing good as well. A great deal of fish are being caught all across the park and as far south as the backwater of the lake. If conventional styles of fishing begin to fail you might want to give fly-fishing a try. Keep in mind that when fishing on Cossatot River the smallmouth limit is two and the smallmouth have to be at least 12 inches long. To experience the fishing on this river at its best, call Cossatot River State park Visitor Center to schedule a fishing Kayak tour.

Lake Columbia : Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said the water is clear and high. Bream are fair in 2 to 5 feet of water on worms and crickets. Crappie are fair on jigs. A few bass have been caught in shallow water on red shad YUM soft-plastics. Catfishing is very good in 3 to 6 feet of water on shiners and stink bait.

Lake Erling : Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said the water is still high. A few bream have been caught on worms and crickets. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is excellent on any bait.

White Oak Lake: [White Oak Lake State Park](#) said the water level is normal and clear. Bream are biting excellently on crickets. Catfish are good on both live and artificial bait. Bass are hitting artificial baits well. Crappie are slow. There will be a kids' fishing derby June 7, at White Oak Lake State Park.

Lake Greeson : As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 547.07 feet MSL.

Lakeside Grocery said the water is murky and high. Bream are fair on crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on topwaters and plastic worms. Catfishing is fair on stink bait and large minnows.

DeGray Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 408.09 feet MSL.

DeGray One Stop said the water is high and clarity is fair. Bream are biting well on crickets and redworms. Crappie are scattered and fishing is good at night on minnows. Bass are biting early and

WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Dardanelle : Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said the water is muddy and high. Bass fishing is good on spinnerbaits, jigs and topwaters. Catfishing is good below the dam on stink bait, shad, nightcrawlers and large minnows.

Blue Mountain Lake : As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 398.35 feet MSL.

Booneville Bait (479-675-9038) said the water is muddy and high. Bream fishing is very good on worms and crickets. Crappie fishing is good around shorelines on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is excellent on worms, stink bait and large minnows. Booneville bait is new and offers all live bait. They are at 55 E. Main Street in Booneville.

Ozark Pool: Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is muddy and high. Bream are fair on crickets and nightcrawlers. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair in the backwater on stump jumpers. Catfishing is good on any bait.

Lake Ouachita : As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation was 578.15 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) had no report.

Dave Lindhag of [Striped Bass Adventures](#) (501-760-6474) said the time for trophy stripers on freelined shad is pretty much over. The fish are grouping up and there is some schooling activity on the surface, but it is still sporadic. Most fish being caught are between 7 and 12 pounds. Fish the points just off the main channels with shad around 20 to 30 feet deep over deeper water. Always have a top-water handy in these areas as you never know when a school may erupt around you. Early and late in the day have been the best times to fish.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water is clearing and the surface temperature ranges from 70-76 degrees. Bass are still biting well on YUM Dingers, floating worms, and Carolina rigs. Jerk baits and flukes also are working well in the mornings and evenings. Walleye are still good and being caught on jerk baits over main lake points.

Stripers are good on live bait and top-water action is very good right now with C-10 Redfins. Bream are excellent on crickets and worms in 6 to 10 feet of water. Crappie are good and being caught over grass and brush. Try large moss flats and brush in water 10 to 20 feet deep. Minnows or crappie grubs are still working best. Tennessee shad and white are the best colors for artificial baits. Catfish are excellent and being caught on cut bait and live bait on jug lines and trotlines.

Lake Catherine : Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that rainbow trout fishing is very slow. May is traditionally a good month for trout; however, the feeding patterns are unpredictable as the summer heat and humidity set in. Catching a limit of trout is tough right now. The bite will improve in June but an angler needs to recognize the ever-changing habits of river fish. White and hybrid bass action are good. Shad fished under a bobber set 3 to 5 feet deep is an excellent way to target both species. White or gray jigs in 1/8 ounce sizes also work well whether the turbines are running or not. Striper activity is still scarce but will dramatically improve when the large schools of threadfin shad begin their migration towards the dam later this month. With Entergy using a regular generation schedule, the water temperature is holding around 57 degrees. Cold water is vital to a healthy trout population which in turn benefits every fish species in the tailrace.

Diamond Head Marina said the water is clear and high Bream are fair on crickets.

Lake Hamilton : Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) had no report.

Lake Hinkle : Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said water conditions are normal. Bream are picking up on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and red or black jigs. Bass fishing is good on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is very good on sunfish and liver.

Lake Atkins : Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the water is muddy and high. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is good on spinnerbaits

and plastic worms. Catfishing is good on worms and stink bait.

EAST ARKANSAS

Arkansas River (Pine Bluff): River City Sporting Goods (870-534-8303) said the water is muddy and high. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and plastic worms. Catfishing is excellent on worms and shrimp.

Maddox Bay: Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said all species are slow.

Bear Creek Lake: Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said the water is murky and high. Bream are biting well on worms, crickets and plastic baits. Catfishing is fair on nightcrawlers and small green sunfish.

Horseshoe Lake : Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water is clear and high. Bream are fair in shallow water on crickets and wax worms. Crappie are biting well in shallow water on minnows and chartreuse jigs. Catfishing is fair in deep water on cut bait.

Island 40 Chute: Daily's Boat Dock (870-739-3478) said the water is clear and about 10 feet high. Catfishing is the best thing going on liver, cut bait and nightcrawlers.

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